

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02957 202316Z

14

ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, VN, RO

SUBJECT: VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN

1. ROMANIAN PERM REP DATCU AND I WERE SEATED NEXT TO EACH OTHER AT SECURITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON TODAY, JULY 20. DATCU BROACHED SUBJECT OF VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP IN UN, SAYING HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED THIS MORNING BY VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR. LATTER WAS FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF NORTH VIETNAM AND HAS NOW APPARENTLY BEEN CONFIRMED IN HIS POST AS REPRESENTING UNITED VIETNAME.

2. ACCORDING DATCU, VIETNAMESE HAD SOUGHT HIS ADVICE RE SUBMISSION APPLICATION TO SECURITY COUNCIL FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. IT APPEARED THAT DATCU HAD UNDERATKEN WITH VIETNAMESE TO ASCERTAIN US VIEWS. DATCU PAINTED VIETNAMESE IN FAVORABLE COLORS AND PRESENTED LATTER AS MILD IN THEIR COMMENTS ON THE US AND DESIROUS OF WORKING OUT UNDERSTANDING ON RELATIONS. DATCU ARGUED THAT US NOW HAD A CHANCE TO CLOSE OUT THAT CHAPTER, TO TURN A NEW PAGE AND ACCEPT VIETNAM MEMBER-SHIP "WITHOUT A LOSS OF US PRINCIPLES."

3. I TOLD DATCU THAT I FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE WOULD BE AT THIS TIME BUT THAT I WOULD BE GLAD TO INQUIRE. I RECALLED THAT THE US HAD
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02957 202316Z

BEEN MUCH CRITICIZED LAST YEAR WHEN WE VETOED TWO

VIETNAMESE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, OUR POSITION BASED PARTLY ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WERE NOT IN FACT SEPARATE ENTITIES AND THAT ONE VIETNAM UNDER DOMINATION BY THE NORTH WOULD SHORTLY EMERGE. DATCU SMILINGLY AGREED THAT US ESTIMATE HAD BEEN ACCURATE. I SAID THAT, IF VIETNAMESE REALLY WANTED IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US, ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO START WOULD BE TO PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION ON OUR MISSION PERSONNEL AND POW'S. I REPEATED THIS LATER IN CONVERSATION FOR EMPHASIS. I AGAIN PROMISED TO INQUIRE OF WASHINGTON WITH RESPECT TO OUR CURRENT POSITION ON A VIETNAMESE APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP, BUT MADE THE POINT THAT NOTHING FINAL COULD HAPPEN ON THAT IN ANY EVENT UNTIL THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS IN LATE SEPTEMBER. AS IN THE CASE OF ANGOLA, IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO RUSH THINGS NOW IN JULY.

4. DATCU REFERRED TO ELECTION-YEAR REALITIES IN US, FORTHCOMING REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION, ETC., AND INDICATED HE AGREED IT NOT NECESSARY TO PRESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AT THIS TIME. HE ARGUED, HOWEVER, FOR HANDLING MATTER IN EARLY DAYS OF SEPTEMBER SO AS TO HAVE THE ISSUE READY FOR EARLY ACTION BY UNGA. HE COMMENTED THAT VIETNAMESE WERE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THEIR APPLICATION ACTED ON BY GA AT BEGINNING OF 31ST SESSION.

5. COMMENT: DATCU IS A RATHER BUMBLING BUSTLER, AND HE WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE TO BE A GO-BETWEEN WHO COULD TAKE CREDIT WITH VIETNAMESE FOR HAVING EASED THEIR PATH TOWARDS FULL UN ACCEPTANCE. DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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